ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

User data is recorded in a recording medium while being linked in units of a fixed length packet, and information indicative of this fact is written to the recording medium. At the time of reading the user data, the position of data linking block can be detected by making reference to the identification information, whereby the excessive run-out blocks which would be otherwise requisite to detect the position of the data linking block are made unnecessary. At the time of data linking, a part where data in the run-in block is missing is filled with correct data, thus the run-in block can correctly be read, whereby the excessive run-in blocks which would otherwise be requisite are made unnecessary.